Centre-State Panel for Formulatiin of Policies for Commodities

7625. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have any Centre-State panel for formulating poli cies for commodities like coffee, particul arly in the wake of internationally fluct uating prices of coffee due to a variety of factors;

(b) whether in formulating[1] policies tha interests of all sections of the industry have been considered; and

(e) if so, to what extent and what are, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no centre-State panel on coffee. However, Govt, have constituted a core Committee on coffee on 30th January, 1995 under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary with repdesentatives of growers, traders and exporters of coffee as members. This Committee has been formed with a view to have closer interaction[1] with the Industry on contemporary issued on a continuing basis.

Growth Trend of Gems and Jewellery Exports

7626. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gems and jewellery exports maintained their impressive growth trend durtng 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further steps Government pro pose to take to give a further impetus to these exports, specially the export of gold jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a)and (b) The export of gems and Jewellery during last two years is given below:

Value in Rs./Crores

Item	1993-94	1994-95 (Provisional)	Growth %
—Diamond	11209.62	12625.38	12.63
—Gold Jewellery	967.76	1482.01	53.13
—Others	350.91	511.80	46.22
Total :	12528.29	14619.19	16.67

(Source: DGCI&S for 1993-94 and Gem and Jewellary Export Promotion Council for 1994-95)

(c) Gem and Jewellary is a thrust ares of our exports and gold Jewellary in this sector has been identified for special focus. The Government has taken various steps to boost exports from this sector. The steps include fine tuning of policies, ensuring easy availability of raw material at internationally cbmpetitive prices and encoureging exporters to participate in international exhibitions.